



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, District 4
Supervisor Peggy Romo West, District 12

For Immediate Release October 26, 2015

Contact: Bill Zaferos, Public Information Manager

414/278-4230 or William.zaferos@milwaukeecountywi.gov

FINANCE COMMITTEE PASSES AMENDMENT CALLING FOR CREATION
OF A JOINT TASK FORCE ON LOCAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS
Cards Designed for Residents Who Cannot Get Driver Licenses, Other IDs

The County Board's Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee has approved by a vote of 6-2 a budget amendment that would create a joint task force to produce local identification cards for those who cannot get a driver license or other form of ID. The amendment was offered by Supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic and Peggy Romo West.

"A local identification card is used every day, whether it is for the library or for medical care," Dimitrijevic said. "But not all of our residents are able to obtain driver licenses or proper identification in order to enjoy a full quality of life."

Local identification cards are used in places like New York City and could benefit our constituents here, Romo West said. The amendment places funds in an allocated contingency of \$150,000 while a work group in partnership with the City of Milwaukee defines the ID program. Alderman Jose Perez is introducing the same amendment and funds at the city.

The local identification card cannot be used to vote, Romo West said.

Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera, said: "Although most people support immigration reform, right now many undocumented community members are denied basic human rights because they don't have a government-issued ID card. For example, one of our Voces members broke his back in an accident at his construction job but the pharmacist would not give him pain medication he desperately needed because he did not have a current government –issued ID. The Milwaukee ID will help some of our community's most vulnerable members access these basic services, but more than that, the ID will show that all who live here are welcome here."

"Too many people are denied access to a full quality of life because they do not have proper identification," Romo West said. "Some cannot get driver licenses or other forms of ID, making this measure critical to ensuring that people can get needed identification so that they can perform basic functions in society. Local ID cards are being used more and more throughout the United States, and it's time our community takes action to allow people to identify themselves."

###